

The CADET

U.S. Army Cadet Command's quarterly magazine

Fall 2011 Vol. II Issue III

Silver
&
Gold

*Cadet Command celebrates
25 years of producing
Army leaders*

Preparing future leaders

Summer training wraps up at LDAC and LTC

Crowning achievement

*Battalions across the country hold commissioning
ceremonies to welcome the newest officers*

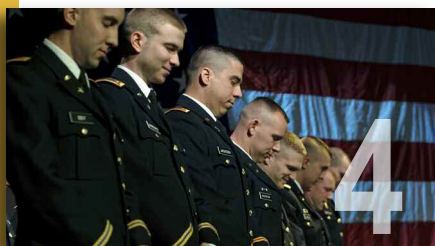
Cadet Command news online at www.army.mil/rotc

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A cake commemorated Cadet Command's 25th anniversary, which coincided with ROTC's 95th anniversary. Photo by Steve Arel



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On the cover: Florida A&M University Cadet Ashley Bailey, is hugged by her brother, Cadet Dominick Bailey also from Florida A&M, after she is commissioned during the graduation ceremony for 13th and 14th Regiments from the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Photo by John Wayne Liston

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The Cadet

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Looking toward the future

Summer training provided pivotal foundation for success



I would like to extend congratulations to the more than 7,400 Cadets who completed ROTC's Leader's Training Course and Leader Development and Assessment Course this summer.

For both cohorts, this new school year marks a significant milestone in your future careers, albeit in markedly different ways.

For those 772 of you who completed LTC at Fort Knox, Ky., you now face a choice of whether to contract with ROTC and pledge yourself to the pursuit of an officers' commission and service to your country.

Serving in uniform is one of the highest callings an individual can answer to his or her country. You got a taste of what this entails during your 29 days on Fort Knox. You have taken significant steps on the path to becoming a leader with your training during Operation Bold Leader.

Now you must decide if you are going to continue your growth. You must decide:

1. Do you have what it takes to lead America's treasure – her sons and daughters – serving as Soldiers?
2. Will you do all that you can to continue to push yourself in body, mind, and spirit to become Army Strong?
3. Can you internalize the Warrior Ethos? Always place the mission first. Never accept defeat. Never quit. Never leave a fallen comrade.
4. Can you live and demonstrate our values? Loyalty. Duty. Respect. Selfless Service. Honor. Integrity and Personal Courage.

If you can answer yes to all these challenges, then I urge you to speak with the professor of military science on your campus and make that commitment.

For the 6,600-plus Cadets who completed Operation

Warrior Forge this summer, you have already made this decision, and your 29 days at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., proved one of the most critical months in your career thus far.

But LDAC graduation is not the end. It is not even the downhill slope.

This final year of your ROTC career marks the time for you to step up and become the leader we expect you to be.

Many of you have already experienced leadership roles in your battalions. But you are now the upper-classmen. In years past, there were other Cadets with more experience. You are now the leaders. And one of the most important leadership truths I want you to internalize this year is that a leader leads by example.

It will be you who sets the example for the under-classmen Cadets. You have completed LDAC. You must show others what right looks like. Set the path for those junior Cadets.

Now is the time to step up. You are the role models who will return to campus and set the path for those Cadets younger than you.

In preparing them for their summer at LDAC, you can share with them tips on how to exercise to properly prepare for the APFT. You can work with them on how to plot a navigation point and determine the proper azimuth. You can share the layout of the Field Leadership Reaction Course. All of these things will help them score higher on their tests at Warrior Forge.

But the best preparation is to show them how to live like leaders.

Living the life of a leader is not easy. But it is probably the most rewarding experience you can have.

Train to Lead!

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald
Commanding General
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Cadet Command unveils its top instructors, employees for 2011

Cadet Command's 2011 Awards for Excellence have been announced.

All of the nominees were excellent examples of the outstanding Soldiers and civilians supporting the command's mission of preparing the next generation of quality lieutenants for the Army, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald said in making the announcements. The winners are:

Professor of Military Science of the Year: Lt. Col. David Yebra, Sam Houston State University, 5th Brigade

Officer Instructor of the Year: Capt. Joseph Miller, University of Maine, 2nd Brigade

Enlisted Instructor of the Year: Master Sgt. Martin Soto, University of Hawaii, 8th Brigade

Recruiting Operations Officer of the Year: Robert Lovins, Florida State University, 6th Brigade

Brigade Nurse Counselor of the Year: Capt. Daisy Wilson, headquarters, 4th Brigade

Human Resource Assistant of the Year: Barbara Austin, Claremont McKenna College, 8th Brigade

Supply Technician of the Year: Rita Vaillancourt, Marquette University, 3rd Brigade

GS 12-14 Employee of the Year: Steven Van Straten, headquarters, 5th Brigade

GS 9-11 Employee of the Year: Gayle Andrews, headquarters, 7th Brigade

GS 5-8 Employee of the Year: Steven Remillard, headquarters, 8th Brigade

Director of Army Instructor of the Year (JROTC): Retired Lt. Col. Norbert Czech, Waco County Schools, Nev., 8th Brigade

Senior Army Instructor of the Year (JROTC): Retired Lt. Col. Justin Blum, Marlboro County High School, Bennettsville, S.C., 4th Brigade

Army Instructor of the Year (JROTC): Retired Master Sgt. Moses Mendoza Jr., Harlingen High School, Harlingen, Texas, 5th Brigade

W. Chester president receives prestigious DePuy Award

An adviser to four presidents who has also been a teacher or administrator at six universities is the latest recipient of Cadet Command's highest individual honor, the Gen. William E. DePuy Award.

Dr. Greg R. Weisenstein, president of West Chester University, received the award this spring at a ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix in Lakehurst, N.J., for his strong support of veterans and, especially, for his support for and effectiveness in bringing an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps presence back to West Chester after an absence of approximately 20 years.



Weisenstein

Created in 2005, the award is presented by U.S. Army Cadet Command annually to an individual who has provided significant support to the local or national Army ROTC, demonstrated support during the past year and provided service or achievement resulting in tangible or intangible benefits to the Army ROTC program. The DePuy Award is considered the most prestigious award given by Cadet Command, which oversees Army ROTC.

The Gen. William E. DePuy Award is named after the first commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. DePuy was a 1941 Army ROTC commissionee from South Dakota State University.

Weisenstein has participated in many programs in support of military veterans. Among the most notable is the "Troops to Teachers" program, the legislation for which he was one of the original drafters. He also supports events organized by the International Military Alumni Committee.

Weisenstein has worked tirelessly to re-establish the program at West Chester. Weisenstein would like to have it become an Army ROTC host campus, and noted that the school's commitment is demonstrated by the large increase in ROTC enrollments over the last two years.

Powell becomes S.C. State Hall-of-Famer

Retired Gen. Colin Powell, the former secretary of state and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, became the 96th member of the South Carolina State University ROTC Hall of Fame in May.

Powell, who commissioned through City College of New York, is the hall's first honorary inductee.

During his remarks, Powell spoke of the importance of ROTC and recognized the program at SCSU for its long-term success in developing military leaders. Among them, Powell said, was his mentor, SCSU alumnus and retired brigadier general, George Price.

Several dignitaries took part in the event, including school President George Cooper and Maj. Gen. Abraham Turner, chief of staff for U.S. Army Strategic Command and another SCSU alumnus.

The first South Carolina State ROTC induction ceremony was held in 1978. Since



Retired Gen. Colin Powell, left, receives a South Carolina State University ROTC Hall of Fame proclamation during the ceremony from Lt. Col. Derrick Corbett, the SCSU professor of military science and a program alumnus. Submitted photo

the program's 1947 inception, 2,040 officers have been commissioned through South Carolina State and its partner schools. Those include Claflin University, Voorhees University, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College and Denmark Technical College.

Around the command

News, notes and updates from across Cadet Command



Secretary visit

Secretary of the Army John McHugh received a briefing Aug. 10 from Cadet Command Commander Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, right, about the state of Army ROTC during a visit to Fort Knox, Ky. The focus of the secretary's post visit was to receive command updates and to present Fort Knox with an energy conservation award. McHugh was accompanied to Cadet Command by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, Accessions Command commander, and Anne LeMay, special assistant to the secretary. *Photo by Spc. John Martinez, Office of the Secretary of the Army*

Longtime instructor retires

His philosophy for years derived from a single idea – it's amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit.

Retired Maj. Odell W. Graves didn't flash his medals or tout his role in the trophies won by his students. It was all about his Cadets.

He believed so much in setting them up for lifetime success that for years, Graves paid out of his own pocket to give his Cadets the opportunity to take college entrance tests they could not have afforded without his help. And that was just one of many examples used by those who know Graves to illustrate how he frequently put his students front and center.

While Graves' focus was on his students, it was on him in early June when he retired as the senior Army instructor for Thurgood Marshall High School in Dayton, Ohio.

The 72-year-old, among the longest-tenured ROTC instructors on either the senior or junior levels, had been a Junior ROTC instructor for 29 years, joining the program even before the establishment of Cadet Command. Before that, he spent two years as a senior ROTC instructor at the University of Dayton.

"Each time I can get a kid the chance to go to college, that's my milestone," Graves said.

"It's critical to encourage and push kids to go to college."

Graves spent his adult life in an Army uniform. After serving for 20 years on active duty, he wasn't ready to leave the Army.

Graves started his JROTC career instructing at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. But he longed to be closer to his family and took an instructor position at Colonel White High School, since renamed Thurgood Marshall High School.



Graves

Graves' knowledge and commitment paid off for those he taught.

"Not a single person in this country at his age understands Cadets like he does," said Justin Gates, competition director of the national high school drill meet. "He has a way of getting into your head and making you understand what you're doing right now is going to affect your life."

Graves is helping the Ohio Memorial Chapter of the Tuskegee airmen on a national campaign, as well as attending the national convention in

August, picking up original Tuskegee airmen and taking them to the convention. He will also volunteer for the new Project PASS program, which incorporates JROTC curriculum at the middle school level.

ROTC scholarships to be presented at AUSA annual meeting

Nine scholarships to Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadets will be presented at the Association of the United States Army's 2011 annual meeting and exposition next month in the nation's capital.

The scholarships will be given during the ROTC luncheon Oct. 10 for Cadets, cadre and invited guests. The event takes place at 12:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel, a block from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center where the three-day AUSA meeting will be held.

Scholarships will be given by:

- AUSA's national headquarters, the luncheon's host, will present a \$4,000 scholarship.

- The Maude Foundation, founded to preserve the legacy of the late Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, who was serving as the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel and was the highest ranking officer killed Sept. 11, 2001, will present two \$2,000 scholarships to Cadets who entered ROTC through the Green to Gold program.

- GEICO will present a \$1,500 scholarship.
- United Services Automobile Association (USAA) will present a \$1,500 scholarship.
- Raytheon Co. will present a \$1,500 scholarship.
- Lockheed Martin Corp. will present three \$1,000 scholarships.

Awards will also be presented at the luncheon to the AUSA-ROTC battalions that have distinguished themselves during the past year.

There is no charge for Cadets and cadre to attend the luncheon, but space is limited. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Those with tickets will enter first and receive priority seating.

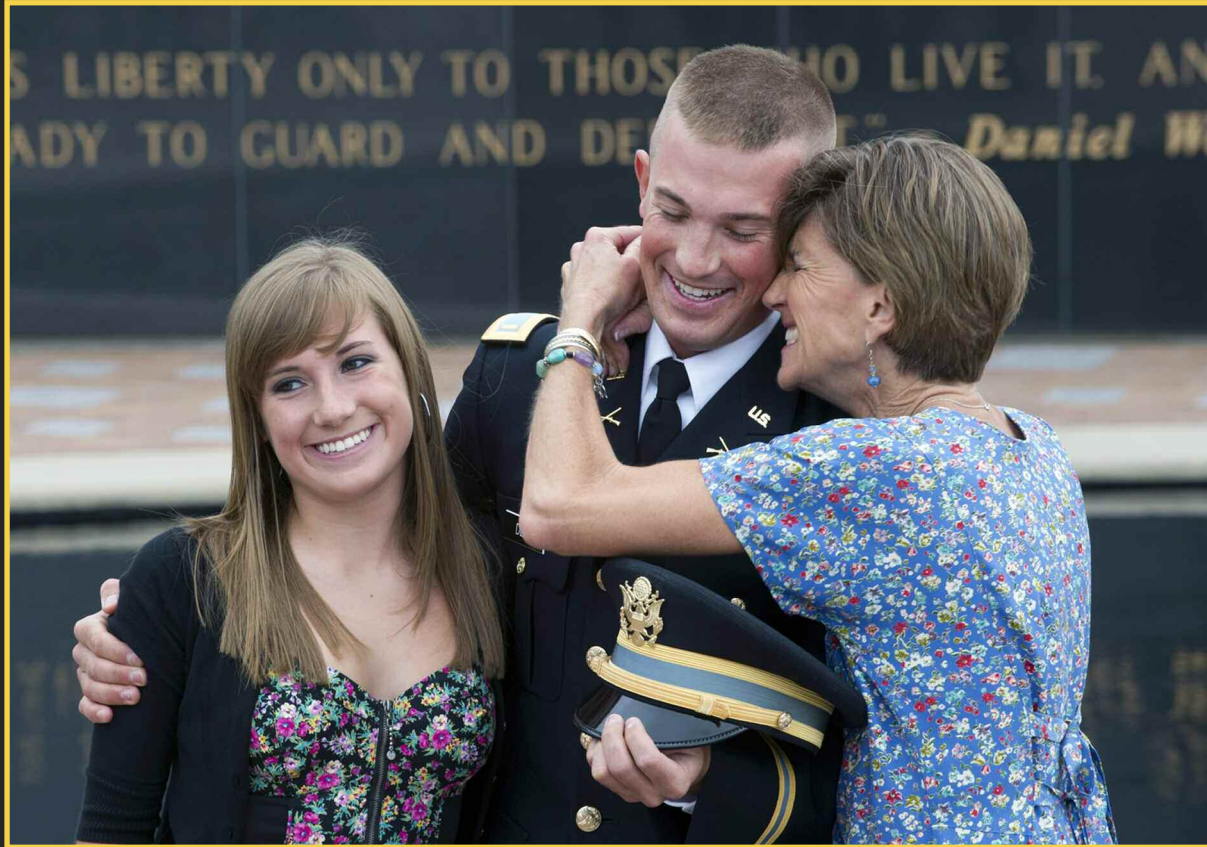
To attend the annual meeting and/or luncheon, registration is required. There is no charge to register. To do so, e-mail your name, address, school name, ROTC unit and day telephone number to Ilse Dorman at ldorman@ausa.org.

For complete annual meeting information, visit the AUSA Web page at www.ausa.org.

GOLD STANDARD

Spring marks the height of annual commissionings. Battalions across the country over the last few months welcomed thousands of new Army leaders to the officer corps.

For an expanded photo gallery, visit <http://bit.ly/rrPqwW>.



(Top) Second Lt. Brian Dean, of Pittsburg State University in Kansas, is congratulated by his mother, Ellen Dean, as he hugs his sister, Morgan Dean. (Above) Sgt. Andrew Turpin, left, a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, offers the first salute to his twin brother, 2nd Lt. Alex Turpin, who commissioned May 7 at the University of Central Arkansas. (Right) New second lieutenants at Columbus State University in Georgia huddle for a cheer after commissioning in early May.

Photos submitted



(Top) Members of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology commissioned in early May at Mount Rushmore.

(Above) Commissionees with the University of Alabama prepare to use a ceremonial saber to slice a cake commemorating their accomplishment.

(Left) Lt. Col. Shawn Phelps, right, the professor of military science at UCLA, administers the oath of office to 2nd Lt. Darren Cinatl, of Pepperdine University, at the Malibu, Calif.-school's Heroes Garden, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

Photos submitted



From left, retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, Cadet Command Commander Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald and Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel Turner, the command's command sergeant major, cut a ribbon to officially open Cadet Command's new Fort Knox, Ky., headquarters. Photo by Steve Arel

Next chapter begins

In hailing its past
and present,
Cadet Command looks
to the future

By Sara Nahrwold
U.S. Army Cadet Command

After the Vietnam War, the United States Army was demoralized. But the establishment of Cadet Command provided structure and quality leadership training – aspects of the organization that have continued to today and were showcased at a ceremony June 1 marking its 25th anniversary.

Cadet Command was formed in April 1986 at Fort Monroe, Va., and is the largest officer-producing organization within the U.S. military. More than half a million second lieutenants have been commissioned since ROTC's inception in 1916, the 95th anniversary of which was celebrated June 1 as well.

Officials also dedicated Cadet Park in honor of those ROTC graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country and christened Shoemaker Hall, the new Cadet Command headquarters. The building, once the former Fort Knox hospital, took about 18 months to renovate at a cost of \$7.5 million.

Nearly 300 people attended the event, which finalized Cadet Command's move from Fort Monroe as mandated by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

"We only do two things at Cadet Command: I've got to commission 5,350 officers and run a world-class citizenship program (JROTC)," said Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, Cadet Command's commanding general.

"That sounds like a little bit, but it's a lot. It takes a team, and we have a great team here."

Retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, president of the Association of the United States Army and the 32nd Army chief of staff, served as the ceremony's featured speaker. He highlighted the positive impact Army ROTC had on his life and the lives of thousands of other Cadets who earned their commissions through the program.

"When I recited my oath as a Cadet in Northfield, Vt., in the summer of 1955, I never realized at that time what a significant event it was to be in my life," the Norwich University graduate said.

"It was to be the great adventure of my life, and I pretty much am proud to say I've been doing this in one form or another since 1955. ROTC and the Cadet experience has been a huge part of my life, and whatever I became in addition to my family, I owe the United States Army."

Although he discussed the beginnings of citizen Soldiers and the problems facing a force rife with untrained officers leading untrained Soldiers, Sullivan focused on post-Vietnam to the present. It was after Vietnam that the Army was in dire need of restructuring, and that transformation ultimately led to the advent of Cadet Command.

"We came out in pretty bad shape, and the leadership of the Army decided it was time to rebuild the force and recreate this force and they (the senior leaders of the Army) initiated a major campaign to transform the Army," he said. "And in my view, the creation of the Cadet Command ranks alongside some of the major initiatives that took place after the war in Vietnam."

After Vietnam, the Army picked itself up and became the envy of other nations, he said. Cadet Command will continue to be an integral part of the development of the fighting force.

"The people who were touched by the officers, developed by Cadet Command, have been out there each and every day doing what had to be done in terrible circumstances and I'll guarantee you this: As sure as we're all sitting here today, years from now in someplace that nobody can even spell, there will be NCOs and Soldiers who have been touched by what happens here at Fort Knox," Sullivan said. "They are not willing to give

in our current and past conflicts sort of brings home the magnitude of what Cadet Command does for the Army," Leroux said. "What Cadet Command really did was standardize the process (of leader development), and that makes a huge difference so you have a common product coming out of thousands of schools."

Although military training had been taking place in civilian colleges and universities as early as 1819, the signing of the Na-



The interior of Cadet Command's Fort Knox headquarters features images and bios of prominent Army ROTC graduates, including the late George C. Marshall, architect of the famed Marshall Plan, and retired Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff and secretary of state. Photo by Steve Arel

On the Web:

To see photos and videos of Cadet Command's 25th anniversary celebration, visit www.armyrotc.smugmug.com/25thanniversary.

their lives, but willing to give themselves in the service of their country because of what they learned in the ROTC experience and in the colleges and universities of America under the leadership of the United States Army Cadet Command."

Lt. Col. Tim Leroux, professor of military science at the University of Virginia who attended the ceremony, held Sullivan's presence in high regard. He was a Cadet 25 years ago, and Sullivan's speech reminded him of the impact ROTC has had on his life.

"Reflecting on the role of ROTC graduates around the world

tional Defense Act of 1916 brought this training under a single, federally controlled entity: the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Cadet Command has 273 senior ROTC programs in the United States, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa and more than 36,000 enrolled senior Cadets. There are 1,731 Army JROTC units, and more than 300,000 Cadets enrolled in Cadet Command's JROTC program.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commanding general for U.S. Army Accessions Command, hailed the product Cadet Command produces and the people who produce it.

"This year alone, over 20 percent of our professors of military science were selected for battalion command from our ranks, which speaks volumes about the talent that is training our Cadets and leading our ROTC battalions," he said.

The strength of the Army was seen in the sight of period uniforms that newly commissioned second lieutenants wore during the ceremony, showing the difference in battle fatigue styles since World War I and the Army's constant commitment to ensuring freedom.

"We don't know what the future will bring, but we do have one certainty," said Bill Betson, the ceremony's narrator. "When our Army is called upon, we will echo Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who summed up our responsibilities with these immortal words – always for them: duty, honor, country."

New Cadet Park focuses on grads who made ultimate sacrifice

By Caitlin VanOverberghe
U.S. Army Cadet Command

With the newly christened Cadet Command headquarters standing tall behind him, John Sogan looked over what was once a bare strip of grass with pride and accomplishment. Three cannons bearing the names Duty, Honor and Country, point southwestward as if defending the headquarters and the American flag.

Below the cannons, plaques anchored to a brick wall list all of the major conflicts ROTC Cadets have participated in. A quote from President Calvin Coolidge emblazoned at the center of the wall under the ROTC logo sums up its existence: "The nation which forgets its defenders, will itself be forgotten."

Cadet Park not only is a centerpiece of the new complex that is home to Cadet Command at Fort Knox, it also was a focal point June 1 in the ceremony to mark the command's 25th anniversary.

"You don't want to forget, and this is so we don't forget," Sogan said. "Our current crop of Cadets is out there on the front line, and other

Cadets will be. But there is a long heritage behind them pushing them along. Honor the dead; honor those who have come before us. Don't forget the sacrifices they've made."

Sogan, who works as Base Realignment and Closure manager for Cadet

Command at Fort Monroe, Va. Sogan said the command was able to bring the history from Fort Monroe and add the memorial wall to it and a pathway that connects the park to the nearby parade field where graduations for the ROTC-run Leader's Training Course are held each summer.

History played a role in June's celebration as those attending took a moment to dedicate and formally open the park. A group of second lieutenants dressed in period uniforms stood

before the crowds as the history of conflicts noted on each plaque were read.



Eric Moss, a Cadet at the University of North Alabama, shoots a photo of Michael Dobbs, a Cadet at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, in front of Cadet Park. (Below) Soldiers donning period uniforms stand in front of a memorial wall at Cadet Park that highlights wars and conflicts that have unfolded during ROTC's 95-year history. Photos by Steve Arel

CADET PARK, continued on page 20



Academic, leadership events showcase high school talent

By Esther Dacanay

U.S. Army Cadet Command

FAIRFAX, Va. – With the information highway revolution and advent of social media, a common fallacy is to simply label Generation Y as the “Facebook Generation.” However, high school students committed to the U.S. Army Junior ROTC citizenship program continually transform that label into an innovative leadership strategy.

Of 300,000-plus Army JROTC Cadets nationwide and a few select Department of Defense Schools worldwide, 18,000 competed in a national academic competition with only 41 continuing on to compete in the Tri-Service Academic Bowl championship held at George Mason University June 24–28. The event was held in conjunction with the annual Army JROTC Leadership Conference attended by an additional 200 leading Cadets representing 64 schools.

Air Force JROTC academic teams represented 16 schools during the competition, while Navy JROTC represented four schools.

The Army JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl, known as JLAB, is hosted by College Options Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping high school students develop academically and to assisting them in their preparation for higher education.

“Using academic competitions, college exam study guides, college admissions tutorials and personalized counseling, we have assisted thousands of students to attain their dreams of attending college,” said Terry Wilfong, founding president of College Options Foundation.

The foundation’s academic competitions are designed to challenge and prepare high school students for college entrance exams, using a fast-paced, Internet-based program designed by i.d.e.a.s. in Orlando.



JROTC Cadets speak with a military veteran during a stop along the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (Below) Cadets attending JLAB toured several monuments in the nation’s capital, including the Washington Monument. Photos by Esther Dacanay



The foundation’s JROTC Academic Challenge tests teams of five Cadets on their knowledge of JROTC curriculum, high school math, science and language arts.

Of the 24 schools competing in the Tri-Service Academic Bowl championship, Marmion Academy of Aurora, Ill., repeated as champion. Claudia Taylor Johnson High School of San Antonio took second, while third went to Naples (Fla.) High School.

“In those critical last moments of the competition, we were absolutely relieved when

the Air Force team gave the wrong answer,” said Marmion Cadet Mitchell Heaton, academic team leader. “We worked hard as a team, and it paid off.”

In the leadership event, the top teams were: Claudia Taylor, first place; Union County High, Union, S.C., second place; and Soddy Daisy High School of Soddy Daisy, Tenn., third place.

“These students represent the best of the best from thousands of high schools,” Wilfong said. “Most importantly, they are from all walks of life while having two things in common: They are very smart, and many are from low-income families. These kids are beating the odds.”

Throughout the duration of the conference, Cadets from both the leadership and academic teams collaborated on peer-to-peer mission projects, building innovative educational software to assist more than one million high school JROTC students annually on standardized testing and general high school curriculum.

While at the event, Cadets also got the chance to tour parts of Wash-

JLAB, continued on page 19



Cadets, at left, work on a Habitat for Humanity project in the Philippines.

(Right) Cadet Teresa Kuyers, of Michigan State University, interacts with school children in Rwanda.

Submitted photos



CULP-tivating diversity

Cadets fan out around the world for pivotal cultural exposure

By Forrest Berkshire
U.S. Army Cadet Command

The classroom moved to five different continents this summer for 455 ROTC Cadets as part of Cadet Command's cultural immersion program.

Small groups of Cadets deployed to 26 nations across Central and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia as part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program.

The lessons took several forms for the 40 groups, from working in orphanages and teaching English to training with Cadets at foreign military academies.

The program started in 2006 as a pilot and was officially established last year. The goal is to immerse Cadets into foreign cultures, both for language proficiency and to broaden their awareness of the differences between U.S. culture and others.

Cadet Omar Sharif, from the University of North Alabama, deployed to Costa Rica as part of the program and said his time was educational.

"We had several people who had never been out of their comfort zone, like out of their state, even," Sharif said. "For them, it was definitely a good experience. They got to experience a completely different culture."

That's the goal of the program, said Jerry Hoffman, Cadet Command culture and language deployment coordinator.

"This portion of our program is geared toward immersing Cadets into a culture," he said. "It's not that they become experts on any particular culture. But it is important they get an introduction to what it is like to experience different customs and worldviews."

Cadet Corey Souza, from California State University-Fresno, said his time abroad helped put the world in context for him.

"People think different ways, people react different ways to different things. People view things different ways," Souza said. "It's helped me to open my eyes to other cultures and to help me think about how I come across when I'm dealing with other people."

2011 CULP deployments

Some 455 Cadets deployed in 40 rotations to 26 partner nations this summer. CULP involves small groups of Cadets, under the supervision of ROTC cadre, traveling for up to four weeks to partner countries. They work with non-governmental organizations, non-profits, partner militaries and other organizations while living with the local population and immersing themselves in the host country's culture. This year's partner nations were:

Europe:

Czech Republic
Estonia
Greece
Israel
Moldova
Portugal-Azores
Slovakia
Spain

Africa:

Benin
Ghana
Rwanda
Senegal
Tanzania
Togo

Asia:

Cambodia
China
Korea
Mongolia
Philippines
Taiwan
Thailand

Central America:

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala

South America:

Peru
Ecuador

It's Francis Lewis again



Naill Rogers motions to a judge at the end of West Creek High School's armed masters level exhibition performance. Photo by Steve Arel

Short on experience, N.Y. program has enough skill to take fourth national drill team championship

By Steve Arel

U.S. Army Cadet Command

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Francis Lewis High School Cadets surprised many people, including themselves, at big meets throughout the 2011 drill season.

They surprised again in May, three-peating as national champs in the demilitarized arms division of the 29th annual National High School Drill Team Championships at the Ocean Center.

"Every year is a new challenge," coach and retired Master Sgt. Lawrence Badia said of the school's roster that was dominated by underclassmen. "You just have to see what happens."

Francis Lewis took the title — the school's fourth in the last three years — in relatively dominant fashion. The Patriot Guard, as the team is known, won two of the five performance categories and finished in the top five in two others.

Douglas MacArthur High School, an Army program from San Antonio, took second overall.

The win erased the surprise in Cadets' eyes and affirmed their position as a legitimate power.

"I had a gut feeling," said Nicholas Kim, the Patriot Guard commander. "I didn't want to get cocky. I just wanted to keep my faith up."

Kim has been part of Francis Lewis' JROTC program for three years, winning a national title in each of them. This was his first as the demilitarized commander, but he said the latest victory was more the result of his teammates than of his leadership.

"I'm not proud, I'm grateful to be part of this program," Kim said. "I'm hard and strict with (the other Cadets). I want them to be the best. I kept pushing them, but a leader can only push so much. They went out and took that trophy."

"It's not me. It's them."

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, a former Junior ROTC

Cadet himself, was impressed with the talent on display throughout the national meet. The sort of drive, teamwork and other skills Cadets exhibited to become competitive among the sport's elite will serve them throughout their lives, the U.S. Army Cadet Command commanding general said.

"This is what made you the best," said McDonald, the featured speaker at the masters level awards gala. "Your efforts have been recognized and will continue to be recognized."

The nationals consist of two levels — challenge and masters. Challenge is for novice programs, while masters is for larger, more experienced teams. Some 128 schools from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps programs from around the country took part, most on the masters level.

Army programs shined on the challenge level. Smith-Cotton High School of Sedalia, Mo., won the unarmed overall championship, following up its win last year in the armed division.

In the armed category, St. John's Northwestern Military Academy of Wisconsin finished runner-up to Ben Davis High School, a Marine Corps program from Indianapolis.

As his high school drill career wound down at the national meet, Jared Rogers coached on Michael Drew and Kevin Cubillos in armed exhibition duals. He had given up his spot in the competition so someone else could get the experience.

Rogers joined them moments later for demilitarized arms platoon exhibition, his last performance as a member of Winter Springs (Fla.) High School.

"This competition is amazing," he said. "There's nothing else like it."

Even though his high school career is complete, Rogers isn't finished with drill.

Region meets things of past

Region drill meets, preludes to the national high school drill team championships in Daytona Beach, Fla., are history.

Officials with Cadet Command's Junior ROTC division have opted to nix the competitions, clearing the way to crown a true Army national champion.

The first Army national meet is set for March 31 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Ky. Future meets will be held the last Saturday in March.

Louisville was selected as the meet's home due to its central location to many of the country's JROTC programs and its proximity to Cadet Command's Fort Knox headquarters.

The Army national field will consist of between 21 and 35 schools. The seven brigades with JROTC programs will each hold brigade-level competitions earlier in the year and advance three to five schools to the Louisville meet.

The Army nationals are expected to mirror the eastern and western region meets. It will feature armed and unarmed divisions, and winners will earn berths in the national meet in Daytona.

Officials will work with brigades to ensure those competitions parallel the higher-level meets, so Cadets don't have to re-learn or re-work their routines to conform to different standards.

DRILL, continued on page 20

For grads, advanced course 'just the beginning'

By Jeremy O'Bryan

U.S. Army Cadet Command

LDAC AT A GLANCE

► **2011 graduates:** 6,340

► **Cadets reporting:** 6,609

► **Pints of blood
donated:** 893

► **Assessments
made:** 36,719

► **Meals
consumed:** 734,000

► **Buses/other
vehicles used:** 699

► **Miles driven:** 1 million

► **On the Web:**
[http://warriorforge.
wordpress.com](http://warriorforge.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/
LDAC2011](http://www.facebook.com/LDAC2011)

More than 6,600 Army Cadets trained and tested this summer at the Leader Development and Assessment Course for their fitness to join the future United States Army officer corps and lead American Soldiers.

Also known as Operation Warrior Forge, the advanced leadership course held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, is the single point of common training and assessment for Cadets from across the country wanting to become lieutenants through U.S. Army Cadet Command's Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

About 6,340 Cadets graduated LDAC. Of those, about 270 were commissioned as second lieutenants at their graduation ceremony. The remainder will return to their colleges and universities to finish the academic requirements for a degree and a commission.

This year, more than 3,000 cadre and staff members conducted and supported the course – Soldiers and civilians from active and reserve Army components, as well as contracted agencies.

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commander of Cadet Command, applauded Cadets during graduation ceremonies.

"Nothing happens by accident," he said. "Hard work got all of you out here today. You stand as future leaders of the Army. This is just the beginning. We have prepared you for a lifetime of leadership."

Cadet James Bogensberger, from Gonzaga University, echoed the sense of progress and accomplishment in McDonald's words.

"This is just the next milestone in our military career," he said. "It was great getting to know new people and learning so much more about the military. You really do not feel set ... until you complete LDAC."

Cadet Stanford Johnson, of Florida A&M University, lets go of the Slide for Life at water confidence training for 9th Regiment. Photo by Al Zdarsky

Training hits its mark



A Cadet with LTC's Bravo Co. shouts orders during the squad tactical exercise, the course's capstone event. Photo by Dorothy Edwards

After initial uncertainty, graduates left course better physically, mentally

By Thomas Gounley
U.S. Army Cadet Command

As they shuffled through the Louisville International Airport on their way to Fort Knox in June, Cadets didn't know exactly what to expect of their upcoming time at the Leader's Training Course. Some knew a little about the training they would go through by talking to past graduates, but others didn't have that knowledge — some finding out they were coming just days before.

As the fourth and final company prepared to graduate in late July, marking the end of LTC for 2011, Cadets reflected on how the course impacted them.

In some ways, the challenges were physical.

"LTC pushed me to my limit and more," said Bravo Cadet Timothy Michael Murphy, of the University of Texas — Brownsville.

In all, 772 students from across the country graduated the course this summer.

Throughout the 29-day training, and particularly in its first three weeks, Cadets were taken from one event to the next, testing skills from water survival to land navigation. Combined with early wake-up calls and long days in the sun, the training was rigorous.

"At times I felt like I wanted to give up because I felt like my body couldn't possibly do anything more, but I found strength deep inside and pushed through it," said Bravo Co. Cadet Erika Lackey, of the University of New Hampshire.

But the challenges were also mental. Training exercises were selected to test and challenge Cadets' fears, such as a fear of heights at the Where Eagles Dare climbing complex.

"Mentally, I was challenged in that I had to convince myself that I could do anything I set my mind to," Lackey said. "Also, since I had never done ROTC before, I had to learn a lot more about the military aspects of some events, like STX (squad tactical exercise) lanes."

While the physical rewards of the course could be easily recorded, from the first PT test to the last, mental and emotional rewards were less obvious.

"My personality changed a lot," said Charlie Company Cadet Justin Delph, of Georgia Military College. "I'm more confident; I have many new abilities. There are a lot of things I can do now that I couldn't do."

LTC AT A GLANCE

► 2011 graduates: 771

► Cadets reporting: 803

► Number of cadre: 1,310

► Avg. PT score: 247.1

► Overall high PT score:
374, Cadet Mary Nelson, Delta Company, University of Virginia

► On the Web:

www.leaderstrainingcourse.com

www.facebook.com/leaderstrainingcourse2011

www.twitter.com/leadertraining

LTC, continued on page 20

Changing of the Guard

First female deputy commander heads list of new summer arrivals

By Caitlin VanOverberghe
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Col. Peggy Combs doesn't credit her success to luck. She knows it was her mother who set her career as an Army officer in motion.

Then a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve, her mother, Pat, brought home an ROTC flyer for Combs when she was a junior in high school. She received an ROTC scholarship and attended Syracuse University, later commissioning as a second lieutenant.

With the sun narrowly peeking over the Cadet Command headquarters building July 25, Combs took over as the command's deputy commander in a ceremony at Cadet Park. She is the first female to serve in that role.

"So, Mom, I'm back home at ROTC," she said.

Fresh off her previous assignment as the chief of the Full Dimension Protection Directorate in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C., Combs said she is pleased to be assisting the molding, shaping and development of Cadets.

"It's exciting about so many things," she said. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work nationwide with the development of our future Army officers and with Junior ROTC in its citizenship program. I think that's really important work."

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, Cadet Command's commanding general, welcomed Combs



Col. Peggy Combs, above, prepares to speak at July's change of responsibility ceremony where she replaced Brig. Gen. Barrye Price, left, who was promoted by Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley a month before his departure. Also pictured with Price is his son, William.

Photos by Bobby Ellis, above, and Steve Arel, left



to Fort Knox. He said he had previously worked with Combs overseas in the training of Iraqi police officers. Having seen her in combat and in stressful situations, he said he knows Combs is a fine leader.

But welcoming one great leader means saying goodbye to another, McDonald pointed out, taking a moment during the ceremony to thank and recognize Brig. Gen. Barrye Price for his work as deputy commander over the last year.

"Transitions are not easy," McDonald said, speaking of the Base Realignment and Closure process that brought Cadet Command to Fort Knox from Fort Monroe, Va. "When you're moving something as complex as Cadet Command, you can't miss a beat. He was the guy we

Other changes around the command



Col. Michael Blahovec, left, takes the 1st Brigade colors from Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, U.S. Army Cadet Command commanding general, during the change of command ceremony. Photo by Bobby Ellis

Col. Michael Blahovec assumed command of 1st Brigade July 6. He replaced Col. Eric Winkie, who remains with the brigade as its deputy commander.

Blahovec, a Pennsylvania native, joins the brigade after serving as chief of the Military Police Branch for the Human Resources Command. Blahovec commissioned in 1998 from Edinboro University.

First Brigade, known as the Bold Leader Brigade, is responsible for all senior military colleges and military junior colleges in nine states. The institutions collectively produce more than 600 second lieutenants annually.

The brigade also conducts the Leader's Training Course.



Col. Glenn Goldman's only exposure to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps began just two years ago, but he caught a bug that will stay with him for his life.

"This process of leader development is contagious," Goldman said shortly before his change of command ceremony in July.

Col. Twala Mathis succeeds Goldman at the helm of 2nd Brigade. Commissioned through Albany State College, she most recently served as the deputy chief of intelligence operations for I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Goldman spent 25 years in line units before taking command of 2nd Brigade, which maintains oversight of ROTC and Junior ROTC in the Northeast region of

the U.S. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, he returns to West Point as the director of military instruction at the academy. His new job is to oversee all aspects of military training of West Point Cadets.

Goldman said his time at Cadet Command will help in his new assignment.



Col. Dean Shultis has assumed command of 3rd Brigade. He took over during a June 24 ceremony, replacing Col. Sharon Wisniewski.

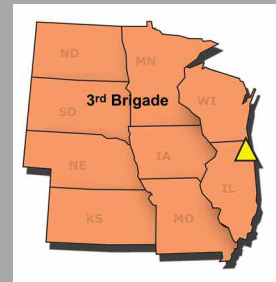
Shultis arrived at the Chicago area-based brigade after serving as the strategic planner for both the U.S. Army Recruiting Command and U.S. Army Accessions Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Wisniewski's next assignment is as the G-1 for U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Shultis, who grew up in a Marine Corps family, commissioned from Montana State University, branching infantry. He holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the school.

He went on to earn a master's degree in criminal justice management from Fitchburg State College. Shultis also holds a master's in national security from the National War College.

Third Brigade covers nine Midwestern states, from Illinois to as far west as the Dakotas.



needed at that time to really kickstart this transition."

Price has moved on to the Pentagon as the director of Human Resources Policy Directorate. In saying farewell, Price urged his Cadet Command family to continue to push for excellence. He also wished his successor luck in her new duties.

Combs also took time to thank Price for making her transition to Fort Knox a simple one.

"I wish you Godspeed as you move on to the Pentagon," she said.

"And I wish you God's blessing as you continue to serve our nation."

Combs, who will soon be promoted, said she is ready to give back to the organization that gave her her start.

"When I found out that I was selected for brigadier general, it was like Christmas," she said. "But when I found out that I was coming to Cadet Command, it was like coming downstairs at Christmas and finding out that the biggest gift under the tree was yours. I'm so excited to be here."

Learning the **ROPES**

Cadets earn prestigious wings at command-run Air Assault School

By Steve Arel
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Compared to all the training she has completed as a Cadet, Ashley Azar never had been through something as grueling as Air Assault School.

The training tests students physically and mentally, the Mississippi State University Cadet said.

"You're constantly going," Azar said. "There's so much packed into it."

But after 10 demanding days of rappelling, ruck marches, classroom instruction and intense scrutiny of attention to detail, Azar got what she wanted: her air assault wings.

Part of what spurred Azar's interest in the course was the fact that she sees few female Soldiers wearing such a badge. She said she hopes having earned the wings will make her stand out among her peers, even garnering a greater degree of respect once she commissions next summer.

"This is a challenge, and I wanted to be among the select few," said Azar, one of four women who received wings in late May.

In all, 146 students graduated Cadet Command's Air Assault School at Fort Knox, Ky. Of those, 139 were Cadets.

Now in its fourth year, the course, run by 1st Brigade, was started as a way to create opportunities for Cadets to obtain air assault training. Slots available to students at courses like those taught at Fort Campbell, Ky., and West Point, N.Y., are limited, totaling only a few dozen or so throughout the year.

This year's course started with 186 people, including 162 Cadets.

It also was the first time actual helicopters haven't been used in the training, said Eddie Jenks, the officer in charge for the Cadet Command event. The National Guard unit tapped to provide the choppers was reassigned to participate in a national exercise.

But the absence of aircraft only has a minimal impact, Jenks said, especially since critical tests such as rappelling are conducted from a permanently constructed tower.

AIR ASSAULT, continued on page 20



Cadet Ashley Azar, of Mississippi State University, works her way down the skid side of the rappel tower. (Left) Cadet Jeffery Franks, of the University of Northern Alabama, gets guidance from an instructor as he dangles from rope. *Photos by Steve Arel*





Sgt. 1st Class Rick Selvester works his way under a web of ropes at the Cadet Command obstacle course during the Accessions Command NCO of the Year competition. Photo by Steve Moore

‘No regrets’

Road to becoming Army’s top NCO ends at Accessions level for command Soldier

By Sara Nahrwold
U.S. Army Cadet Command

The scorching heat and intense physical training pushed Sgt. 1st Class Rick Selvester to his limits, but it was not enough to win him the title of Accessions Command NCO of the Year.

“I have no regrets,” said Selvester, who was named Cadet Command’s top NCO earlier this year. “It’s a huge weight off my shoulders because it takes so much to compete for something like this and be a family man and an ROTC instructor. This is a win-win for me. I was proud to come here, and I’m also happy to go home and be a family man.”

Selvester, a member of the Army ROTC program at Norwich University in Vermont, competed against three other NCOs in June at Fort Knox, Ky. The competition was won by Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Gilmer of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, who advances to the Training and Doctrine Command level.

“He went overboard on what he needed to do, and he had the mentality that he would never quit no matter how tough the task and the mission he got,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel Turner, command sergeant major of Cadet Command. “I believe in my heart that he was top-notch; he was right up there with the guy who won.”

Selvester faced off against the other competitors in several events that spanned four days, ranging from written tests to an obstacle course to land navigation. The most difficult for him was the road march.

“The road march normally I’m pretty strong at but I believe I was just completely unprepared for it climitization-wise,” he said. “Everyone suffered minor heat injuries.”

Because of the high heat – that topped out in the mid-90s – and humidity on that day, the eight-mile march was reduced to four.

The overall physical demand of the competition was challenging, he said. The heat played a big role for Selvester because he is from Vermont, a much cooler climate state.

“I felt like I was breathing soup, but it was a great physical challenge,” he said.

The last day of competition was the most mentally challenging for competitors. They each had to sit in front of a board of senior non-commissioned officers and were asked questions on basic military knowledge.

“It was actually a fun board,” Selvester said. “I probably answered a few incorrectly, but I felt comfortable because I stopped being nervous about boards a long time ago.”

Turner said the board was one area in which Selvester excelled.

“He presented himself very well and articulated and communicated well,” he said. “He answered a lot of questions right the first time, and you could tell he studied hard and did a lot of research.”

Looking back, Selvester said there is always something he could have changed to improve his performance but is satisfied with the outcome.

“I would have studied harder, worked out harder, pushed it harder this time or that time,” he said. “I did try my very hardest.”

Turner is proud of Selvester’s performance and his representation of Cadet Command.

“He represented Cadet Command to the best of his ability and gave us 120 percent,” he said. “He is a great NCO. I would take him anywhere, I would let him lead Soldiers anywhere in this world and I would have him at Cadet Command for the next 20 years if I could.”

Maryland develops phone app to connect with prospects

By Jeremy O'Bryan

U.S. Army Cadet Command

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – Interested in Army ROTC? Brochures abound, if you can find one.

And for Army Cadets wondering about their schedules? Just turn on your computer, wait for it to boot up, get a wi-fi signal, open a Web browser and log in to the campus website.

Or, in either case, there's an app for that.

A few technologically-savvy members of the University of Maryland's Army ROTC battalion decided this spring the best way to manage the myriad ways they connect with current and prospective Cadets was to design and build a mobile device application that puts knowledge in the hands of the user.

"We saw young people on campus, one earbud in, connected to their mobile devices, and we said, 'Let's build a way to reach out to them,'" said Lt. Col. Sam Cook, the professor of military science at the Terrapin Battalion. "Brochures can end up on the floor and in the trash, but with the press of a button we can deliver information to a smartphone or iPod."

To design the app – believed to be the only one developed by an Army ROTC program – Cook and his battalion's principal recruiting staff, 1st Lt. Christopher Emmens and Staff Sgt. Mark Wilson, employed the skills of then-Cadet

Alexander Styrcula, a Cadet and engineering student with the capability and interest to develop the application.

"I pitched the idea to Alex, and he created a prototype over a weekend," Wilson said.

The staff then took as much information as they could get their hands on – Cadet Command regulations, the Cadet handbook – things that were already available – and worked the information into the app.

Wilson said Styrcula created the app and redesigned portions of the battalion's website during his stint as a lieutenant recruiter for the battalion – inside of two months.

The app contains information for prospective Cadets – what it takes to join ROTC, how to contact the battalion staff and a curriculum list; and spells out

training options and policies for current Cadets.

"The app is self-guided," Cook said. "When people show an interest in our program, we have them pull down our app. We love it. There are days, especially during new student orientation, when we get flooded with questions."

Cook said the app not only serves to orient people to ROTC, but downloading it actually provides an action step that prospective Cadets can take that amounts to an investment.

An app is available for Apple Inc.'s iOS and for the Android market.



JLAB, continued from page 9

ington, D.C., and speak with veterans visiting some of the monuments.

"A lot of studying and academic preparation went into this year's competition," Heaton said. "With our peer-to-peer projects, it's great knowing that our hard work will also help somebody else out in the long run. We have a lot of brilliant students in our battalion preparing for next year's academic competition, and I'm ready to help train them up and hand over the reins."

Cadets from all service branches worldwide participate in myriad leadership discussions through the JROTC World Facebook page, initiated by College Options Foundation. The platform allows student leadership teams to interact, reflect and learn about leadership programs and systems to improve their local units. Among the discussion topics, Cadets are asked to answer the question of who is their hero.

"My hero is definitely my father, Army Green Beret, Sgt. 1st Class Hester, who was a great leader to his men and served over four combat tours in Iraq," said Cadet Jacob Hester, a senior at Fort Payne High School in Fort Payne, Ala. "He has been a great father to me, still finding time to be with me even though he was in the Army and I did not live with him."

Because of his father's influence, Hester recently enlisted in the Army as an infantryman. After graduating high school and completing his service contract, he plans to enroll in the Green to Gold program and apply for an Army ROTC scholarship at North Georgia College, majoring in criminal justice, and later, commissioning as an infantry officer.

"Since freshman year, it had always been my plan to enlist in the Army," Hester said. "But after joining JROTC, it influenced my decision to attend college, finish a degree and commission as an officer."

Something many people assume is that JROTC is a recruitment tool for the U.S. Army. Cadets attending JLAB refuted the claim.

"JROTC is not just about the military, or about teaching you history and wars," said Cadet Kailey Perry, a junior at Tahlequah High School in Tahlequah, Okla. "JROTC is like a family. Everyone cares about how you're doing. Two years ago, I could not even look people in the eye, or even talk to anybody I didn't already know. But now my confidence and leadership skills have grown tenfold."

In JROTC, Cadets tend to arrive to school early, spend time with each other during lunch and stay late after school, said retired 1st Sgt. Steven Walker, the assistant Army instructor at Perry's school.

"These kids are looking for discipline," he said. "We're like a big family unit. Our Cadets get along well with each other, they don't harass each other and they even tutor and mentor each other. It's unbelievable."

Both Hester and Heaton agree JROTC builds a special kind of camaraderie.

"JROTC has influenced my choice of college," Heaton said.

"It showed me life options in the service, helped build my leadership skills and has given me some incredible life experiences I can't compare to anything else."

AIR ASSAULT, continued from page 16

Instructors typically use the helicopters mostly as familiarization to students, and no activity in the chopper is evaluated. The Cadet Command school made do with mock-ups, showing students how to hook in to the vehicle and how to position a load.

Air assault differs from many military schools in that it focuses on individual performance, Jenks said. While teamwork is always pivotal, a student's success hinges on their ability to complete physical tasks such as a 12-mile ruck march in an allotted time, climb ropes and navigate an obstacle course.

Then there's the mental stress, where students must not only be able to meet the requirements but also do so by exhibiting proper technique. A series of slight mistakes can add up to major penalties – and even dismissal from the course.

"It's not just about jumping from a helicopter," Jenks said.

"It's a lot about attention to detail, and that crosses over into so many other things."

For some Cadets, the course was only the start of a busy summer.

Scott Hubner, of Appalachian State University, planned to take a couple of weeks off to vacation with his family before heading off to Airborne School. "This is better than sitting around doing nothing," he said.

Waiting for a second turn going down the 51-foot high rappel tower a few days before graduation, sweat dripped down the face of Wheaton College Cadet Daniel Yarian. He said the training was the most intense he had endured.

Not just because of the demands of the course itself, but also because of pressure he felt to graduate after a fellow Cadet failed to earn his wings last year.

"My MS II instructor is counting on me," Yarian said. "Being able to do this means a lot."

CADET PARK, continued from page 8

Some visited the park after the event.

Cadets Michael Dobbs, of Jacksonville State in Alabama, and Eric Moss, of the University of North Alabama, took pictures of each other in front of the ROTC logo on the park's main wall. They were both at Fort Knox receiving training before taking off on a three-week cultural awareness trip to Guatemala.

"They can teach you military history in school all day, but to be here is an eye-opener," Dobbs said.

Sgt. Maj. Michael Thompson of Cadet Command's 1st Brigade said the park offers a relevant link to the history of Cadet Command and the Army.



DRILL, continued from page 11

The sport is part of his identity now. It's helped him develop as a Cadet and as a person. It's taught him the value of teamwork and how to be a leader.

Rogers plans to join the military after graduation, still hedging between the Army and Air Force.

What he is certain of is that he'll compete again in Daytona next year. Only he'll do it on the professional level, vying for cash prizes and prestige in a worldwide annual competition held simultaneously with the high school meet.

"Drill got a hold of me and drew me in," Rogers said. "This is just the beginning."

Francis Lewis High School Cadets receive the demilitarized arms first place trophy from Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commanding general for U.S. Army Cadet Command, at the national drill meet in Daytona Beach, Fla. Photo by Steve Arel



Alpha Company Cadet Christopher Baker, of Penn State University, participates in the equipment removal station of combat water survival training. Photo by Heather Cortright

LTC, continued from page 13

"It has had a really good impact on me as far as knowing who I am, and my self-esteem and leadership as well," said Charlie Company Cadet Jamie Morrison, of Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina.

Throughout LTC, Cadets had opportunities to lead fellow Cadets, as well as observe others in action.

"I learned that you need to have faith in yourself before you can lead others," said Lackey, who hopes to become a physical therapist for the Army. "If you aren't confident in your abilities, then your squad or platoon will question you as a leader and might not trust your abilities to lead as well. Confidence is key."

In the end, however, Cadets said it was less the training that would stick with them, but rather

the camaraderie that developed.

"You become real tight-knit, like a family," said Alpha Company Cadet Joe Didonato, of the University of Central Florida.

Cadets spent nearly a month as part of a squad and a platoon, and all their activities revolved around that unit.

"The main thing is you have to stay together as a platoon," Murphy said. "Third platoon became a family. We worked hard and did the best we could."

Cadets have the opportunity to contract with the Army upon returning to their home institutions. Completing LTC allows them to enter as third-year ROTC students.

"As of right now, I hope to make a career out of the military," said Bravo Company Cadet Austin Brackeen, of New Mexico State University. "I love the military life and everything it has to offer."

Cadet Spotlight

A quarterly look at some of ROTC's future leaders who are already making an impact on their campuses.

This summer, Cadet Kevin Bubolz from Marquette University was one of 6,609 Cadets to attend the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Bubolz excels in both ROTC and in the classroom.

Hometown
Stratford, Wis.

Major
Criminology

Grade Point Average
3.9

ROTC Activities

Bubolz is serving as Cadet battalion commander this fall. He is involved in his program's color guard and Ranger Challenge teams. He has attended combat diver and airborne schools.

Other Activities

In a band called Spanish O'Donnells
Charity work through Marquette University
Army Ten-Miler
Intramural sports

Branch
Medical Services

What motivates you to be an Army officer?

Since I can remember, I have always dreamed of being in the Army. I found out about the ROTC program, and it fit my life perfectly. I wanted to get a college degree and push myself to be the best I can be. I strive to perform at the highest level and to make sure I am making a difference to help others. I want to be out there leading and setting an example.

What are your future Army goals?

In the long run, I would love to become an Army general. I know that goal is a long way out, so in the meantime I want to make the biggest impact on Soldiers' lives that I can.

What impact has ROTC had on you?

ROTC has set my life up for everything. It has given me opportunities that I would not have otherwise. I am allowed to go to a school that I normally would not be able to and at the same time get amazing leadership experience. I am able to develop myself and find out who I really am.

How has ROTC helped you become a professional outside the military?

ROTC has given me wonderful leadership and social skills to interact with others. I can go in front of a group of people and not feel awkward or afraid to talk to them, because in the Army you do that every day. Army ROTC prepares you to be successful because you learn what it means to be a professional.

Photo by Jesse Beals

LAST LOOK



With Mount Rainer in the background, a Cadet with LDAC's 9th Regiment walks down the road of the land navigation course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo by Jesse Beals